

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

GOVPANCANZONE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECRETARY PANAMA CANAL COMPANY WASH DC PRIORITY

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:PFOR/PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: "TENSIONS" AMONG
AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY

REFERENCE: PANAMA 0272

EYES ONLY FOR THE PRINCIPALS OF THE PANAMA REVIEW
COMMITTEE FROM BELL AND DOLVIN.

1. FEW OF THE PROBLEMS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE PRE-
OCCUPIED THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS MORE. NONE HAS
SEEMED SO IMPERVIOUS TO SOLUTION.

2. WE NOTE THAT SENATOR JAVITS COMMENTED IN SEVERAL
MEETINGS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT THAT THESE TENSIONS --
WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS VERY HIGH -- ARE AS MUCH OF A
THREAT TO UNINTERRUPTED NEGOTIATIONS AND BILATERAL RE-

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LATIONS AS ARE POSSIBLE DISTURBANCES BY PANAMANIAN STUDENTS.

3. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE SENATOR SUGGESTED ONE METHOD OF TRYING TO ALLEVIATE THE TENSIONS: DEVELOPMENT OF A SET OF PRINCIPLES (SIMILAR TO THE TACK-KISSINGER PRINCIPLES) DIRECTED AT THE CONCERNS OF THE EMPLOYEES. PRESUMABLY

THIS WOULD BE A SORT OF "BILL OF RIGHTS" FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES WHICH COULD BE PUBLICIZED AS CONSTITUTING THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS' OBJECTIVES.

4. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT NEW. SUCCESSIVE CANAL ZONE GOVERNOR/PRESIDENTS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THEIR PRC COLLEAGUES, HAVE COMMENDED IT TO SUCCESSIVE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS.

5. TODAY, AS FORMERLY, THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS WITH THE PROPOSAL, AND MANY DANGERS -- FOR THE EMPLOYEES' OWN FUTURE WELL-BEING AS WELL AS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS' COURSE. MOREOVER, WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT FOLLOWING THIS COURSE WOULD REALLY HELP REDUCE TENSIONS.

6. BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO DISCARD OUT OF HAND ANY CONCEIVABLE MEANS OF DOING SO. ACCORDINGLY WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OWN THINKING ON THIS MATTER -- BASED NOT ON STAFF STUDIES BUT, RATHER, ON INTUITION, FAMILIARITY WITH THE PROBLEM, AND YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE UNITED STATES' OVERRIDING FOREIGN AND MILITARY-POLICY INTERESTS. INDEED, WE WOULD NOT WANT THIS TO GO BEYOND THE PRINCIPALS THEMSELVES, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE.

7. NOR WOULD WE WANT TO LAY DOWN ANY ASSUMPTIONS, SAVE THE OBVIOUS ONE: THAT THE NEGOTIATORS HAVE MANY "INTEREST GROUPS" TO WHICH THEY MUST BE ATTENTIVE, AND THE CANAL EMPLOYEES FORM ONLY ONE OF THEM, SO THAT A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN YOUR THINKING SHOULD BE, BRIEFLY PUT, "BALANCE".

8. YOU CAN TELL WE ARE GROPING. WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP IN DOING SO. KISSINGER

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